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HIGHLIGHTS OF LINCOLN, NE NATIONAL COMPENSATION SURVEY MARCH 2001

Workers in the Lincoln, Nebraska metropolitan area averaged \$14.89 per hour during March 2001, according to a new survey released by the U. S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Regional Commissioner Peter J. Hebein reported that white-collar workers averaged \$17.22 per hour and accounted for 52 percent of the workers in the area. Blue-collar employees averaged \$13.59 per hour and represented 31 percent of the workforce, while the remainder worked in service occupations and earned \$9.56 per hour. (See table 1.)

The National Compensation Survey (NCS) presents straight-time earnings for all occupations in establishments employing 50 or more workers in private industry and State and local governments. The survey excludes agricultural establishments, private households, the self-employed, and the Federal Government. This NCS covered 203 firms representing 72,000 workers in the Lincoln metropolitan area, which includes Lancaster County. Sixty-six percent of those represented worked in private industry.

In the Lincoln metropolitan area, average hourly wages were published for 33 detailed occupations. Among white-collar workers, computer systems analysts and scientists averaged \$23.83 per hour; secretaries, \$11.53; and cashiers, \$7.44. Blue-collar occupations included industrial machinery repairers earning \$16.54 per hour; welders and cutters at \$13.83; and truck drivers at \$12.96. In the service occupations, janitors and cleaners were paid \$9.58 per hour and cooks, \$8.08.

The NCS also provides broad coverage of selected occupational characteristics. (See tables 2 and 3.) For example, full-time employees in the Lincoln area averaged \$15.74 per hour and part-timers earned \$9.05. Union workers in blue-collar jobs averaged \$16.06 per hour, while their non-union counterparts made \$11.74. Private industry workers in establishments employing 50-99 workers averaged \$10.93 per hour and those in establishments with 500 or more employees earned \$16.02.

The NCS is part of a statistical program that will eventually integrate three separate surveys of wages and benefits into one comprehensive compensation program increasing the amount of data available. Data provided by the NCS may be used by businesses for establishing pay plans, making decisions concerning plant relocation, and in collective bargaining negotiations. Individuals may use such data to help choose potential careers. Average rates of pay are also available for levels of work within an occupation based on knowledge, skill, independent judgment, supervision received and other factors required on the job.

Survey Availability

Complete survey results are contained in the Lincoln, NE National Compensation Survey March 2001 (Bulletin 3110-27). While supplies last, single copies of the bulletin are available from the Chicago Information Office by calling 312-353-1880. In addition, data contained in the bulletin are available on the Internet in both text and PDF formats at www.bls.gov/ncs/ocs/compub.htm. Survey tables can also be obtained from the Bureau's fax-on-demand service by dialing (312) 353-1880, menu option 1. Up to four documents at a time may be selected and faxed to you within minutes, 24 hours a day.

BLS Fax-on-Demand - Chicago (312) 353-1880, option 1		
Document no.	National Compensation Survey Lincoln, NE, March 2001	Pages
9640	News Release	6
9641	Table 1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3. Mean hourly earnings by occupation, industry, for full-time and part-time workers. Table 3-1 and 3-2. Mean weekly and mean annual earnings and hours	10
9642	Tables 4-1, 4-2, to 4-3. Hourly earnings for selected occupations and levels.	8
9643	Tables 5-1, 5-2, to 5-3. Hourly earnings by worker characteristics. Tables 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 6-4, 6-5. Hourly wage percentiles for selected occupations.	11
9644	Appendix A. Technical Note containing survey procedures & concepts Table 1 - Number of workers represented by survey	5
9455	Appendix B. Occupational Classifications	8
9456	Appendix C. Generic Leveling Criteria Appendix D. Evaluating Your Firm's Jobs Appendix E. A Guide for Users of Prior BLS Wage Surveys	10

For personal assistance or further information on the National Compensation Survey, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Chicago Information Office at (312) 353-1880 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. CT.

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Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2001

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
All	\$14.89	3.0	\$13.65	2.5	\$17.41	6.5
All excluding sales	14.97	3.0	13.67	2.4	17.41	6.5
White collar	17.22	4.3	15.49	3.7	19.65	8.0
White collar excluding sales	17.59	4.5	15.87	3.6	19.65	8.0
Professional specialty and technical	20.95	4.3	18.34	4.9	23.87	6.9
Professional specialty	22.82	4.7	19.98	6.2	25.42	6.6
Engineers, architects, and surveyors	25.15	5.0	24.45	5.3	—	—
Mathematical and computer scientists	24.00	9.5	24.00	9.5	—	—
Computer systems analysts and scientists	23.83	9.7	23.83	9.7	—	—
Natural scientists	—	—	—	—	—	—
Health related	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teachers, except college and university	24.60	10.5	—	—	26.13	10.3
Elementary school teachers	29.71	5.9	—	—	29.83	5.9
Secondary school teachers	28.63	11.5	—	—	29.06	11.7
Social scientists and urban planners	—	—	—	—	—	—
Social, recreation, and religious workers	13.45	8.1	—	—	—	—
Social workers	13.45	8.1	—	—	—	—
Lawyers and judges	—	—	—	—	—	—
Writers, authors, entertainers, athletes, and professionals, n.e.c.	14.59	6.6	14.59	6.6	—	—
Technical	14.85	2.9	14.66	3.2	—	—
Engineering technicians, n.e.c.	16.30	3.8	17.31	13.2	—	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.05	8.8	23.32	6.6	24.57	14.1
Executives, administrators, and managers	27.50	6.9	26.81	8.2	27.84	9.4
Managers and administrators, n.e.c.	25.69	5.6	26.13	9.9	—	—
Management related	16.61	12.2	19.21	7.3	—	—
Management related, n.e.c.	14.87	14.5	—	—	—	—
Sales	13.46	13.5	13.46	13.5	—	—
Advertising and related sales	31.48	24.2	31.48	24.2	—	—
Cashiers	7.44	6.4	7.44	6.4	—	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.23	2.6	11.42	3.0	10.92	4.5
Secretaries	11.53	5.0	13.09	4.1	—	—
Order clerks	11.38	2.9	11.38	2.9	—	—
Bookkeepers, accounting and auditing clerks	11.68	2.7	10.72	2.3	—	—
General office clerks	10.16	5.7	9.00	3.7	—	—
Data entry keyers	9.40	4.9	—	—	—	—
Administrative support, n.e.c.	9.69	7.8	9.69	7.8	—	—
Blue collar	13.59	2.9	13.33	3.0	15.30	9.9
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.83	3.7	15.32	4.3	17.81	9.7
Industrial machinery repairers	16.54	8.7	—	—	—	—
Mechanics and repairers, n.e.c.	14.17	9.2	14.17	9.2	—	—
Supervisors, production	16.38	10.2	20.08	13.8	—	—
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.71	4.0	13.71	4.0	—	—
Fabricating machine operators, n.e.c.	14.84	10.5	14.84	10.5	—	—
Miscellaneous machine operators, n.e.c.	11.93	12.2	11.93	12.2	—	—
Welders and cutters	13.83	3.7	13.83	3.7	—	—
Assemblers	12.00	6.6	12.00	6.6	—	—
Transportation and material moving	15.66	8.9	15.53	10.4	—	—
Truck drivers	12.96	5.7	12.61	6.3	—	—
Industrial truck and tractor equipment operators ..	12.16	14.6	12.16	14.6	—	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.72	3.4	9.70	3.9	—	—
Stock handlers and baggers	8.33	7.4	8.33	7.4	—	—
Freight, stock, and material handlers, n.e.c.	9.56	5.3	9.56	5.3	—	—
Laborers, except construction, n.e.c.	12.82	13.5	12.82	13.5	—	—
Service	9.56	5.9	7.62	4.8	11.73	6.6

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Mean hourly earnings,¹ all workers:² Selected occupations, private industry and State and local government, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2001 — Continued

Occupation ³	Total		Private industry		State and local government	
	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)	Mean	Relative error ⁴ (percent)
Service —Continued						
Protective service	\$13.48	8.2	—	—	\$13.64	8.5
Food service	5.93	7.2	\$5.71	7.8	—	—
Waiters, waitresses, and bartenders	3.18	11.0	3.18	11.0	—	—
Waiters and waitresses	2.96	13.6	2.96	13.6	—	—
Other food service	8.24	4.3	8.21	5.1	—	—
Cooks	8.08	5.1	7.98	5.7	—	—
Food preparation, n.e.c.	7.26	3.2	7.08	2.9	—	—
Health service	10.08	2.2	10.05	2.4	—	—
Nursing aides, orderlies and attendants	10.21	2.4	10.25	2.9	—	—
Cleaning and building service	9.43	6.4	9.90	9.0	8.67	5.8
Janitors and cleaners	9.58	7.1	10.27	10.5	8.67	5.8
Personal service	7.49	3.4	7.17	4.8	—	—
Early childhood teachers' assistants	7.70	3.6	—	—	—	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² All workers include full-time and part-time workers.

³ A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

NOTE: Dashes indicate that no data were reported or that data did not meet publication criteria, and n.e.c. means "not elsewhere classified." Overall occupational groups may include data for categories not shown separately.

Table 2. **Selected worker characteristics: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2001**

Occupational group	Private industry and State and local government					
	Full-time workers ³	Part-time workers ³	Union ⁴	Nonunion ⁴	Time ⁵	Incentive ⁵
	Mean					
All occupations	\$15.74	\$9.05	\$15.74	\$14.44	\$14.72	\$19.13
All excluding sales	15.65	9.50	15.74	14.51	14.92	16.56
White collar	17.77	12.24	17.03	17.29	17.04	21.98
White-collar excluding sales	17.74	15.59	17.03	17.84	17.60	—
Professional specialty and technical	20.97	20.76	23.72	19.50	20.95	—
Professional specialty	22.79	23.11	25.78	21.16	22.83	—
Technical	15.08	—	—	14.58	14.85	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	24.05	—	—	25.89	24.40	—
Sales	18.24	6.58	—	13.46	9.41	24.39
Administrative support, including clerical	11.41	9.09	10.77	11.46	11.23	—
Blue collar	13.99	7.51	16.06	11.74	13.35	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.90	—	18.39	13.82	15.69	17.65
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.74	—	16.59	11.43	13.20	—
Transportation and material moving	15.76	—	19.30	12.90	15.64	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	10.35	7.09	10.73	9.05	9.65	—
Service	11.27	6.49	12.23	7.41	9.57	—
	Relative error ⁶ (percent)					
All occupations	3.0	9.3	4.1	4.0	3.1	7.0
All excluding sales	3.1	10.3	4.1	4.1	3.1	5.8
White collar	4.5	14.7	8.3	4.9	4.5	10.7
White-collar excluding sales	4.7	14.9	8.3	5.1	4.6	—
Professional specialty and technical	4.7	14.6	9.0	4.9	4.4	—
Professional specialty	5.1	14.6	9.2	5.5	4.8	—
Technical	2.9	—	—	3.2	2.9	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	8.8	—	—	6.7	9.0	—
Sales	10.9	1.7	—	13.5	8.6	12.8
Administrative support, including clerical	2.7	5.5	5.0	2.9	2.6	—
Blue collar	3.0	5.0	4.2	3.3	3.0	—
Precision production, craft, and repair	3.7	—	5.1	5.5	4.0	9.5
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.1	—	2.6	5.0	4.5	—
Transportation and material moving	9.0	—	11.7	6.3	8.9	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.6	4.3	5.2	4.4	3.4	—
Service	5.4	5.9	6.4	4.0	6.0	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Employees are classified as working either a full-time or a part-time schedule based on the definition used by each establishment. Therefore, a worker with a 35-hour-per-week schedule might be considered a full-time employee in one establishment, but classified as part-time in another firm, where a 40-hour week is the minimum full-time schedule.

⁴ Union workers are those whose wages are determined through collective bargaining.

⁵ Time workers' wages are based solely on an hourly rate or salary; incentive workers are those whose wages are at least partially based on productivity payments such as piece rates, commissions, and production bonuses.

⁶ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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Table 3. **Establishment employment size: Mean hourly earnings¹ by occupational group,² private industry, National Compensation Survey, Lincoln, NE, March 2001**

Occupational group	Full-time and part-time workers				
	All private industry workers	50 - 99 workers ³	100 workers or more		
			Total	100 - 499 workers	500 workers or more
	Mean				
All occupations	\$13.65	\$10.93	\$14.17	\$13.13	\$16.02
All excluding sales	13.67	10.83	14.21	13.07	16.02
White collar	15.49	14.34	15.69	14.87	18.15
White-collar excluding sales	15.87	14.64	16.09	15.21	18.15
Professional specialty and technical	18.34	15.90	18.74	16.15	—
Professional specialty	19.98	15.68	20.78	17.29	—
Technical	14.66	—	14.43	14.90	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	23.32	22.66	23.47	24.61	—
Sales	13.46	12.53	13.60	13.60	—
Administrative support, including clerical	11.42	10.33	11.61	11.68	11.32
Blue collar	13.33	11.03	13.55	11.91	15.16
Precision production, craft, and repair	15.32	11.55	15.62	14.82	16.40
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	13.71	10.10	14.21	12.55	15.21
Transportation and material moving	15.53	—	15.89	12.00	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	9.70	9.72	9.70	8.68	—
Service	7.62	6.61	8.52	8.05	—
	Relative error ⁴ (percent)				
All occupations	2.5	6.3	2.7	3.6	3.5
All excluding sales	2.4	6.7	2.6	3.3	3.5
White collar	3.7	7.9	4.2	4.9	6.8
White-collar excluding sales	3.6	9.1	4.1	4.6	6.8
Professional specialty and technical	4.9	14.4	5.3	5.2	—
Professional specialty	6.2	16.8	6.5	9.9	—
Technical	3.2	—	3.0	3.3	—
Executive, administrative, and managerial	6.6	13.4	7.5	8.0	—
Sales	13.5	18.5	15.6	15.6	—
Administrative support, including clerical	3.0	7.4	3.4	4.1	4.5
Blue collar	3.0	6.3	3.2	3.9	3.6
Precision production, craft, and repair	4.3	12.8	4.4	6.9	4.6
Machine operators, assemblers, and inspectors	4.0	6.3	4.1	7.5	3.5
Transportation and material moving	10.4	—	11.5	4.3	—
Handlers, equipment cleaners, helpers, and laborers	3.9	7.3	4.1	5.4	—
Service	4.8	8.8	6.9	6.7	—

¹ Earnings are the straight-time hourly wages or salaries paid to employees. They include incentive pay, cost-of-living adjustments, and hazard pay. Excluded are premium pay for overtime, vacations, holidays, nonproduction bonuses, and tips. The mean is computed by totaling the pay of all workers and dividing by the number of workers, weighted by hours.

² A classification system including about 480 individual occupations is used to cover all workers in the civilian economy. See appendix B for more information.

³ Establishments classified with 50-99 workers may contain

establishments with fewer than 50 due to staff reductions between survey sampling and collection.

⁴ The relative standard error (RSE) is the standard error expressed as a percent of the estimate. It can be used to calculate a "confidence interval" around a sample estimate. For more information about RSEs, see appendix A.

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